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observed the change, but from his observation he thought it occurred during the breeding season.

The specimens found on the prairie region flanking the Yellowstone river, were very light in color; those from the Bad Lands somewhat darker, while those obtained near, and on the Mussel-shell river were extremely dark, and one specimen was nearly black. In this individual the abdomen was darker than the backs of the specimens from the prairie districts. The abdominal scales were densely covered with black spray, sufficiently so as to give some of them a uniform color.

Dr. Yarrow<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Henshaw both say the coloration of the animal depends greatly upon the color of the soil where found, and this has been the result of my observations in Dakota and Montana, as well as in Arizona among other species of the same genus.

Dr. Yarrow<sup>2</sup> in speaking of the time that these reptiles may be kept alive without food, says he has never been able to keep them alive over four months. Of the total number collected in 1873, I brought sixteen to Pennsylvania, five of which survived until the following May. The state of torpidity which began in December may account for this to some extent, but at various times during the winter of 1873-4, I placed them near the heater to revive them temporarily for the purpose of showing them to inquisitive visitors; still this did not apparently affect them. In May, 1874, I placed them in the garden, and soon after being exposed to the sun they showed signs of exhaustion, difficulty of respiration, and finally died. They were considerably emaciated, and probably the state of debility, in addition to a humid atmosphere and sudden exposure to the hot rays of the sun was too much for them.—*W. F. Hoffman, M.D.*

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>3</sup>

PERFORATED SKULLS.—Rev. Stephen Bowers, Ph.D., recently discovered a burial place near Santa Barbara, Cal., which he explored in part. It yielded thirty or forty skeletons, serpentine bowls, a pipe, arrow-head, shell and bone ornaments, beads, etc. But the most singular feature was a nest of six skulls entirely separated from the other portions of the body, and buried under boulders and fragmental rocks; five of these skulls were perforated near the apex (with one exception); the perforations were about three-fourths of an inch in diameter, and were doubtless made at death. He found other perforated skulls in the same cemeteries, but they were in too friable a condition for preservation.

ETHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.—Dr. Bowers spent several months during the year 1878 in ethnological explorations

<sup>1</sup> Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geog. Survey, IV, 1878, p. 286.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 287.

<sup>3</sup> Edited by Prof. OTIS T. MASON, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

in Southern California. His work was chiefly confined to Santa Barbara county and portions of San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. The regions of the Santa Inez, Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande, Ventura and Santa Clara rivers, and some of their tributaries, were examined, and the sites of old pueblos mapped. In the collections made, and the study of the remains of the nearly or quite extinct Santa Barbara stock, much additional light has been thrown on their hitherto scanty history. A remarkable feature, of Mr. Bower's discoveries in the burial places of this race is that he has found exact duplicates of the stone implements figured in Dr. Schliemann's Mycenæ. Mr. Bowers is preparing an exhaustive monograph of his interesting discoveries, which will be published by the Department of the Interior.

CRANIA AS CINERARY URNS IN THE MOUNDS OF OHIO.—An article in the *NATURALIST* for November, 1878, by Mr. Henry Gilman, on the utilization of crania as cinerary urns, calls to mind what is probably a parallel case, which recently came under the writer's observation in this vicinity.

In this instance the mound, which was opened under the direction of Dr. Charles L. Metz, of Madisonville, was composed of a light sandy loam like the surrounding soil, but had received an additional layer of yellow clay, ranging from six to twelve inches in thickness. Its measurements are, approximately, as follows: Circumference 200 feet, height 7 feet. It is situated on the "second bottom" or plateau of the Little Miami river, about one hundred and fifty feet above the water line, and distant about one-third of a mile from the river. A trench four feet in width and as deep, apparently, as the original surface, was carried to its center from opposite sides, but without at first finding anything to indicate the former presence of man. Continuing a little deeper, however, almost directly in the center, there was found a small, circumscribed deposit of ashes mixed with fragments of charcoal and charred bones, about three or four handfuls in all; with these were mingled pieces of a human skull in perfectly sound condition so far as the action of fire was concerned, but very soft and friable through decay. They regained their hardness to some extent after being dried by exposure to the air.<sup>1</sup>—*Frank W. Langdon, Madisonville, Ohio.*

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—The *Journal* of the Anthropological Institute, Vol. VIII, No. 2, for November, 1878, contains a cluster of very important papers. Mr. W. Flinders Petrie discusses the vexed question of Metrology and Geometry in Ancient Remains. Two things seem to be certain upon this subject: all builders of

<sup>1</sup> For further information concerning the earthworks, etc., of this vicinity, see "Pre-historic Monuments of the Little Miami valley," with Chart, by Charles L. Metz, M.D. *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History*, Vol. 1, No. 3, October, 1878. The mound here mentioned is No. 6, Group A, and has been opened since the publication of the article referred to.

permanent works have had a standard, and it is very difficult to ascertain what that standard was. Mr. Petrie finds a strong resemblance between the unit of the North American mound-builders and some of the old world standards.

The next paper on the game of Patolli, in Ancient Mexico, and its probable Asiatic origin, by Mr. E. B. Tylor, has already appeared in the *Popular Science Monthly*. The paper by Mr. Francis Galton on Composite Portraits was read last summer before the British Association, and was fully noticed at the time. The next communication, on the Origin of the classificatory system of relationship used among primitive peoples, by Mr. C. Staniland Wake, occupies 36 pages, and is chiefly a review of Mr. Lewis H. Morgan, Sir John Lubbock and Mr. McLennan, and opposes Mr. Morgan's hypothesis of the consanguine family and promiscuity as the starting point of his system. Mr. Wake affirms that "the consanguine family has not existed as a recognized social institution," and that "the Punaluan group can be accounted for satisfactorily without assuming the prior existence of the consanguine family." Against Sir John Lubbock's theory that "Children were not in the earliest times regarded as equally related to their father and their mother, but that the natural progress of ideas is, first, that a child is related to his tribe generally, secondly, to his mother and not to his father, thirdly, to his father and not to his mother, lastly, and lastly only, that he is related to both," Mr. Wake offers the opposing statements of Mr. Morgan with reference to our own American tribes. Mr. McLennan's system of polyandry is dismissed with a few words.

The number closes with two papers, by Mr. Alfred Simson, on South American tribes, entitled: "Notes on the Piojes of the Putumayo," and "Vocabulary of the Zaparo language."

All lovers of excellent work will be delighted with a new serial whose first number appeared Jan. 31, 1879, bearing the following title, *Index Medicus*, a Monthly classified record of the Current Medical Literature of the World. Compiled under the supervision of Dr. John S. Billings, Surgeon U. S. Army, and Dr. Robert Fletcher, M.R.C.S., Eng. New York, F. Leypoldt, 37 Park Row. We take the liberty to quote from page 31 the following titles:

Busch (H.) Grösse, Gewicht und Brustumfang von Soldaten. Studien über ihre Entwicklung und ihren Einfluss auf die militärische Tauglichkeit. Berlin, 1878, A. Hirschwald. 85 pp., 8vo.

Cassanova (A.) Ibridismo in ispecie fra l'uomo e parecchi animali, facendo punto sulla trasformazione delle razze scimiotiche di primo ordine nelle infime selvaggie umane, e sui metodi per ottenere migliori tipi umani, equini, boviné, ovine, ecc. Milano, 1878. Zanaboni, 228 pp., 8vo, 51.

Von Lenhossék (Jos.) Des déformations artificielles du crâne en général, de celles de deux crânes macrocéphales trouvés en

Hongrie et d'un crâne provenant des temps barbares du même pays. Avec 11 fig. phototyp. sur 3 planches, 11 fig. xylogr. et 5 fig. zincogr. intercalées dans le texte. Budapest, 1878, Kilian, 134 pp. gr. 4. m. 18.

Montano. Etude sur les crânes boughis et dayaks du Museum d'histoire naturelle. Avec projections au diagraphes intercalées dans le texte. Paris, 1878, G. Masson. 71 pp., 8vo.

Schoebel (C.). L'âme humaine au point de vue de la science ethnographique; suivi d'une note sur Claude Bernard et son principe du critérium ethnographique. Paris, 1878, De Rosny. 24 pp., 8vo.

Bouchut (E.). Peso de los recién nacidos. Rev. de med. y cir. práct., Madrid, 1878, II, 289-300.

Davreux. Un cas remarquable de microcéphalie. Ann. Soc. Med.—Chir. de Liege 1879, XVII, 329-331.

Dupouy. De l'hérédité et des mariages consanguins. Médecin, Par., 1878, IV (No. 40).

Whitley (N.). Is "palæolithic man" a reality of the past, or a myth of the present? Jour. of Psych. Med., London, 1878, n. s. IV, 256-275.

In addition to the foregoing valuable list from *Index Medicus*, the following brief references are given with the hope that they may be of service to some of our readers:

A review of non-Biblical Semitic literature for 1878, by A. Neubauer, in *Athenæum*, Jan. 11.—The Aryan Household: an Introduction to comparative jurisprudence, by William E. Hearn, reviewed in *Athenæum*, Jan. 25.—The History of Afghanistan from the earliest period to the outbreak of the war in 1878, by Col. G. B. Matteson, reviewed in *Academy*, Jan. 11.—Russian and Turk, from a geographical, ethnological and historical point of view, by R. G. Latham, reviewed in *Academy*, Jan. 18th, by M. Elie Reclus.—Discoveries of Antiquities in Italy in 1878, by F. Barnabei, reviewed in *Academy*, Jan. 18, 1879.—Prehistoric Copper Implements. An open letter to the Historical Society of Wisconsin, by Rev. E. F. Slater, *New England Hist. and Gen. Register*, Jan. 9, 9 pp.—Ancient Artificial Mounds, B. Shipp, *Louisville Magazine*, Jan., 7 pp.—Peruvian Antiquities, Dr. E. R. Heath, *Quarterly Journal of Science*, Jan.—Fairy Lore of Savages, J. A. Farrer, *Saturday Magazine*, Jan. 4, 8 pp.—The Indian as a coming citizen, by E. B., *Lippincott's Magazine*, Jan., 2 pp.

#### GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW ZEALAND.—The following districts of New Zealand have been geologized during the season 1877-8: The Hokanui mountains in Southland, by Mr. Cox, from October to January, assisted by Mr. McKay, who continued the work of collecting fossils until the end of February. In January Mr. Cox visited and reported on the copper lode at Dusky sound.